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**From:** D'Andrea, Anthony [dandrea.anthony@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/3/2019 4:53:01 PM  
**To:** AO OPA OMR CLIPS [AO\_OPA\_OMR\_CLIPS@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Daily Clips, 5/3/2019

**Daily Clips**  
**May 3, 2019**

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## CHEMICAL

### AgriLand

#### US EPA glyphosate ruling: 'No risks to public health'

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/us-epa-glyphosate-ruling-no-risks-to-public-health/>

Sylvester Phelan

Friday, May 3, 2019

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that it “continues to find that there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen”.

In a statement on the matter, released on Tuesday, April 30, the agency noted that its scientific findings on human health risk are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies.

While the agency did not identify public health risks in the 2017 human health risk assessment, the 2017 ecological assessment did identify ecological risks, the statement said.

To address these risks, EPA is proposing management measures to help farmers target pesticide sprays on the intended pest, protect pollinators, and reduce the problem of weeds becoming resistant to glyphosate.

Commenting on the ruling, EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler said: “EPA has found no risks to public health from the current registered uses of glyphosate.

[Tuesday’s] proposed action includes new management measures that will help farmers use glyphosate in the most effective and efficient way possible, including pollinator protections.

“We look forward to input from farmers and other stakeholders to ensure that the draft management measures are workable, realistic, and effective.”

US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue also spoke, stating: “If we are going to feed 10 billion people by 2050, we are going to need all the tools at our disposal, which includes the use the glyphosate.

“USDA [US Department of Agriculture] applauds EPA’s proposed registration decision as it is science-based and consistent with the findings of other regulatory authorities that glyphosate does not pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans.”

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in US agriculture and has been studied for decades, the agency noted.

The herbicide is the active ingredient in Roundup, owned by Bayer subsidiary Monsanto, which is currently embroiled in a number of lawsuits relating to the safety of the product, including a recent case in France.

### Occupational Health and Safety

#### CSB Asks EPA to Review 1993 HF Study

<https://ohsonline.com/articles/2019/05/03/csb-asks-epa-to-review-hf-study.aspx?admgarea=news&m=1>

Occupational Health and Safety Staff

Friday, May 3, 2019

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, known as CSB, recently sent a letter to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency asking that EPA review its 1993 hydrofluoric acid (HF) study to determine whether refineries exiting risk management plans are sufficient to prevent catastrophic releases of the chemical, as well as whether there are commercially viable, inherently safer alkylation technologies for use in petroleum refineries.

Addressed to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, the letter was stamped April 23 and was posted to CSB's website the following day.

"In the last four years, the CSB has investigated two refinery incidents where an explosion elevated the threat of a release of HF. Refinery workers and surrounding community residents are rightly concerned about the adequacy of the risk management for the use of hazardous chemicals like HF. The EPA should review its 1993 HF study to ensure the health and safety of communities near petroleum refineries utilizing HF," CSB Interim Executive Kristen Kulinowski said.

The agency's letter said the two refinery incidents were the Feb. 18, 2015, explosion at the former ExxonMobil refinery in Torrance, Calif., when an electrostatic precipitator in the fluid catalytic cracking unit exploded during maintenance activities; and the April 26, 2018, explosion and fire at the Superior Refinery Company LLC refinery in Superior, Wis., known as the Husky Refinery.

The safety board noted that HF is a highly toxic chemical that can seriously injure or kill someone exposed at a concentration of 30 parts per million and is used in about 50 of the approximately 150 refineries in the United States, as well as many other industries. In a refinery, the chemical is used as a catalyst in the creation of a blending agent for high-octane gasoline.

In both of the investigations, CSB conducted a public hearing in which members of the surrounding communities expressed their concerns about the adequacy of the risk management strategies for the use of HF and the effectiveness of community notification procedures in the event of a catastrophic release. "The EPA is the appropriate agency to assess the adequacy of risk management for the use of chemicals like HF. Refiners, their workforce, and communities that surround the refineries need assurances that the risk plans are adequate to prevent a catastrophic release," Kulinowski said.

The letter states that the safety board understands that new alkylation technologies are being developed that may have inherent safety advantages over the use of HF at U.S. refineries. "These include a solid-state technology and an ionic liquid technology, both of which are currently being planned to replace existing HF alkylation units in at least two U.S. refineries," it states.

## **Politico Pro**

### **EPA wants feedback on petition to ban glyphosate in pre-harvest drying**

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2019/05/epa-wants-feedback-on-petition-to-ban-glyphosate-in-pre-harvest-drying-3193532>

**Liz Crampton**

**Friday, May 3, 2019**

The EPA is seeking input on a request from food companies for the agency to limit residues of glyphosate on oats and to prohibit the weedkiller's use as a pre-harvest drying agent.

The petition was filed in September by the Environmental Working Group along with food companies such as Ben & Jerry's, Stonyfield Farm and Nature's Path.

Glyphosate is commonly used as a weedkiller and is most often marketed as Roundup products, now manufactured by Bayer. But it's also sprayed on oats to dry out the crop so it can be harvested sooner. EWG says that use of glyphosate as a pre-harvest drying agent increases the likelihood that residue of the chemical will be present in foods, such as popular cereals eaten by children.

The advocacy group has embarked on a campaign to ban application of glyphosate on oats, citing research that the weedkiller is a probable carcinogen. Other scientific research, however, including research conducted by the EPA, shows that the chemical is safe.

EPA will collect public comment on the petition for 30 days, according to a notice published today in the Federal Register.

## **Politico Pro**

### **Court questions EPA move away from HFC rule**

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2019/05/court-questions-epa-move-away-from-hfc-rule-1408249>

**Alex Guillen**

**Friday, May 3, 2019**

A three-judge panel on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals questioned on Friday why the Trump administration stopped enforcing the entirety of a key EPA regulation targeting hydrofluorocarbons when the court had only found fault with certain provisions.

The judges were hearing arguments in a case challenging a recent guidance document that opened the door for companies to continue using HFCs, a potent greenhouse gas.

The court in 2016 struck down a portion of an Obama-era rule that required owners of industrial refrigerators and air conditioners to stop using HFCs in favor of next-generation chemicals that do not harm the ozone layer or contribute to climate change.

However, that ruling left parts of the rule untouched, including a requirement that companies still using ozone-depleting chemicals skip directly to the next-generation replacements, rather than HFCs.

EPA's April 2018 guidance said "confusion" around the D.C. Circuit's ruling had prompted it to decide not to enforce the entire rule.

Environmentalists and several states sued EPA, arguing it had wrongly created a loophole with the sweeping guidance.

"We have many cases that say ... that an agency cannot simply suspend the enforcement of a program, that it can only do that through another public notice-and-comment rulemaking," said Judge David Tatel, a Clinton appointee.

The judges also probed whether EPA's guidance is a final agency action subject to legal challenges.

Peter DeMarco, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, argued that companies reading the court's opinion would not have assumed they could still switch to HFCs, but that EPA's guidance explicitly allows that.

That changed the legal landscape, he argued. In the year since EPA's guidance was issued, around 100,000 commercial refrigerators have switched from ozone-depleting chemicals to HFCs instead of next-generation chemicals, DeMarco said.

Judge Neomi Rao — the former Trump regulatory czar making her first appearance on the bench following her March confirmation — questioned how much wiggle room EPA would have if the guidance were vacated. Would EPA "have discretion to not apply the 2015 rule until it completed its new rulemaking?" asked Rao.

DeMarco replied that EPA could use its enforcement discretion for "gray areas," such as companies currently using a mix of ozone-depleting chemicals and HFCs.

"But to completely abandon enforcement of the rule, it would at least have to provide a reasoned explanation to do so," he added.

## **The Chemical Engineer**

### **US CSB calls for review to improve HF safety**

<https://www.thechemicalengineer.com/news/us-csb-calls-for-review-to-improve-hf-safety/>

**Amanda Jasi**  
**Friday, May 3, 2019**

THE US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), has released a letter calling on the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review and update its 1993 study of hydrofluoric acid (HF) to improve safety.

HF is a highly toxic chemical which can cause injury or death at a concentration of 30 ppm. It is used in about 50 refineries, of which the US has approximately 150, and in other industries. In refineries, HF is used as a blending agent to produce high octane gasoline through alkylation. Alkylation is used to convert isobutane and low-molecular-weight alkenes into alkylate, a high-octane component. The process is carried out in the presence of a strong acid, such as HF.

In the past four years the CSB has investigated two petroleum refinery incidents in which explosions increased the threat of possible HF or modified HF, says the letter. The first was in 2015 when an explosion occurred at a former ExxonMobil refinery in California, US. The second occurred in 2018 when an explosion occurred at a Husky refinery in Wisconsin, US.

In the course of both investigations the CSB found that members of the communities surrounding the refineries were concerned about the use of HF in the facilities. The public's concerns related to the adequacy of risk management strategies to protect against uncontained release of HF, and the effectiveness of community notification procedures in the event of a catastrophic release.

As a result, the CSB strongly encourages the EPA to review and update its existing study of HF in order to determine whether current refinery risk management plans are sufficient to prevent catastrophic releases. Additionally, the EPA should determine whether there are safer and commercially-available alkylation technologies which could be used in petroleum refinery, says the letter.

Kristen Kulinowski, Interim Executive of CSB, said: "The EPA is the appropriate agency to assess the adequacy of risk management for the use of chemicals like HF. Refiners, their workforce and communities that surround the refineries need assurances that the risk plans are adequate to prevent a catastrophic release."

#### **Washington Examiner**

#### **EPA rules reviled Roundup weed killer not linked to cancer**

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/epa-rules-reviled-roundup-weed-killer-not-linked-to-cancer>

**John Gage**

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**

Regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency announced this week that Roundup weed killer is safe to use.

"EPA continues to find that there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen," the agency said in a statement Tuesday.

"The agency's scientific findings on human health risk are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies."

The EPA's ruling is a win for Bayer, who gained the rights to Roundup when they purchased agribusiness giant Monsanto last year.

Bayer was defeated twice in court recently as it continues to fight the more than 10,000 different lawsuits contending its product is linked to cancer.

Environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, were quick to fire back at the decision claiming the chemical was linked to cancer.

"The EPA's pesticide office is out on a limb here — with Monsanto and Bayer and virtually nobody else," Jennifer Sass, a senior scientist at the council, said in a statement.

Roundup is big business for Bayer, which sells it to both the general public for home landscaping and farmers to spray on crops genetically modified to be resistant to the herbicide, which have been developed and sold by Monsanto.

## **CLIMATE**

### **EcoWatch**

#### **EPA Releases Report Advising Communities to Prepare for Climate Change-Related Disasters**

<https://www.ecowatch.com/epa-climate-change-disasters-report-2636186015.html>

**Madison Dapceвич**

**Friday, May 3, 2019**

Policymakers at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a report in the Federal Register outlining how local communities should start planning for near-future catastrophes associated with climate change.

As first reported by the Washington Post, the 150-page report – titled "Planning for Natural Disaster Debris" – offers updates to the 2008 report by advising local government bodies to go "beyond resilience to anticipate, plan, and prepare for impacts" of climate change. In particular, it addresses how local communities can cope with debris and disaster following floods, hurricanes, wildfires only intensified by a changing climate.

"Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of some natural disasters," reads the report citing a 2014 National Climate Assessment. "The amount of debris generated by natural disasters, and the costs to manage it, will likely increase as a result."

Citing "climate change" or "a changing climate" a total of 29 times, the report veers somewhat from recent comments made by the agency's own administrator Andrew Wheeler, who told CBS in an interview that "most threats from climate change are at 50 to 75 years out," though the threats represent "an important change we have to be addressing and we are addressing."

Just last fall, the Trump administration released a federally mandated major climate report produced every four years by more than 300 independent and government scientists. Writing in the Fourth National Climate Assessment, report author Brenda Ekwurzel said at the time that the findings "made it clear that climate change is not some problem in the distant future. It's happening right now in every part of the country. When people say the wildfires, hurricanes and heat waves they're experiencing are unlike anything they've ever seen before, there's a reason for that, and it's called climate change."

It's no secret that the world is already seeing the effects of climate change. A NASA website section dedicated to the subject notes shrinking glaciers and shifting plant and animal ranges as evidence that it's happening in real time with past predictions now coming to fruition through loss of sea ice, intensified heatwaves, and sea level rise around the world. The agency is confident that temperatures will continue rising for "decades to come" primarily due to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. The most recent report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms such findings, predicting a 1.5 degree Celsius increase of temperature above pre-industrial levels around the world, bringing with it more droughts and heat waves, changes in precipitation patterns, stronger and more intense hurricanes, and an expected sea level rise of between one and four feet by the end of this century. Altogether, these effects are expected to impact everything from our food supplies to clean water access with measurable impacts to human health, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

When it comes to planning, communities should assume "the worst-case scenario" as they adapt to the "debris-related impacts of climate change." Across the nation, flooding is expected to intensify even in areas where total precipitation is projected to decline. Climate change is expected to "increase the frequency and intensity of some natural disasters."

Larger amounts of debris will affect wider areas, contributing to a greater risk of chemical and industrial release from facilities and increased gas emissions from debris management activities, among other things. Pre-incident planning, the agency notes, should include pre-incident planning with key stakeholders to identify potential debris streams, evaluate recycling programs to see if they can be scaled up during disasters, consider waste collection, and address health and safety considerations.

EcoWatch contacted the EPA requesting an official statement regarding the report, specifically as it relates to future planning to mitigate the effects of climate change, but has not received a response at the time of publication.

## FUEL

### **NewsDakota**

#### **EPA Considering Compromise Plan On Ethanol Waivers**

<https://www.newsdakota.com/2019/05/03/epa-considering-compromise-plan-on-ethanol-waivers/>

**Todd Ingstad**

**Friday, May 3, 2019**

Two industry sources have told Politico that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler is looking at a compromise plan when it comes to ethanol waivers.

Wheeler is considering a plan that would offer small refineries partial relief from blending requirements set forth in the Renewable Fuels Standard.

Politico says the move could be a potential compromise between the ethanol and oil industries, two of President Trump's core support groups. 36 refineries have sent in requests for exemptions from their 2018 blending requirements.

Corn and ethanol groups say the waivers continue to undermine the ethanol standard and reduce demand for the biofuel.

A Reuters report from Wednesday says the EPA has suspended a plan that would publish the names of each refinery that gets a biofuel blending exemption.

Both the White House and the oil industry came out in opposition to making the names public.

A group of Republican senators asked Wheeler to account for the ethanol blend wall and reset statutory targets so that the contributions of conventional biofuel is below an implied 10 percent level for 2020, or 14.2 billion gallons.

The Renewable Fuels Association says the EPA should instead utilize its reset authority to reallocate lost volumes from its excessive use of small refinery waivers.

## LITIGATION

### **Bloomberg Environment**

#### **Challengers on EPA Coolants Hope Third Time's the Charm**

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/challengers-on-epa-coolants-hope-third-times-the-charm-55>

**Chuck McCutcheon**

**Friday, May 3, 2019**

Obama-era limits on climate-warming coolants are back in front of a federal appeals court that has twice struck them down in large part, as environmentalists and several states try to force the EPA to implement the remaining pieces.

This time, nearly a dozen states, led by New York, and the Natural Resources Defense Council are challenging EPA guidance from April 2018 saying it won't enforce the Obama administration's restrictions on hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs—refrigerant chemicals that have a global warming potential hundreds of times greater than carbon dioxide.

The EPA says it took that step to eliminate confusion for companies after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit largely struck down the HFC limits. The agency also has said it will propose changes to the Clean Air Act program that the Obama administration used to restrict HFCs. Arguments in the case are the first in which Judge Neomi Rao—President Trump's former deregulatory chief—will sit on the bench as Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's replacement.

#### One Republican's Carbon-Tax Vision

Rep. Francis Rooney (R-Fla.)—a former construction magnate and close friend of former President George W. Bush—has a plan to get his party on board with taxing greenhouse gas emissions, Tiffany Stecker writes.

Rooney is a co-sponsor of H.R. 763, which would place a \$15-per-metric ton fee on carbon dioxide emitted from burning crude oil, natural gas, or coal.

Rooney said a carbon tax can sway his party if it's sold as "a way to head off something worse," such as a Democratic cap-and-trade plan that he and others consider unfair to industry. A carbon tax is "a market-sensitive deal," he said. "It doesn't require a bureaucracy, you just put the tax in and there it goes."

#### What Else We're Watching

Several environmental groups notified U.S. Steel Corp. they intend to sue over the company's alleged failure to report hazardous air pollution releases from its coke production facility in Western Pennsylvania. The company wants to invest more than \$1 billion at two of its Pennsylvania plants to alleviate complaints that the company has invested too little in its facilities and isn't doing enough to alleviate emissions.

Today's the deadline a judge in PG&E's bankruptcy case set for the California company to reach agreement with power generators over long-term power contracts. Without a deal, Judge Dennis Montali will issue a ruling.

#### Insights

##### GCs Should Turn to AI to Save Time, Money, Manage Data

Virtually every process in today's legal department is automated by technology tools that generate large amounts of data. Haresh Bhungalia, CEO of Casepoint, says when that data is subjected to artificial intelligence-powered analysis across functions and legal matters, it yields new insights that can help legal departments save time and money.

##### A New Path to Law Firm Profitability—Contingency Fee Litigation

Law firms should stop shying away from contingency fee arrangements. Justin Barker, head of Validity Finance's Chicago office, says a diverse portfolio of carefully vetted contingency cases should result in a realization rate that far exceeds the 80 to 85 percent realization rates typical of most litigation practice groups in a law firm.

##### Implementing Compensation Clawbacks In a Global Economy

Clawback compensation regulations, a reaction to the global financial crisis, have been enacted across multiple countries, each with its own set of rules, creating consistency challenges for global corporations. Allen & Overy attorneys in New York and London offer advice for compliance in all jurisdictions, and contend a global policy on executive compensation-focused clawbacks would benefit all.

#### Daily Rundown

##### Top Stories

##### Oil Drillers Get More Leeway as Interior Eases Post-Spill Rules

The Trump administration is giving oil companies more flexibility when drilling offshore, by easing Obama-era mandates imposed in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 workers and unleashed the worst oil spill in U.S. history.



## Paris Climate Bill Passes House, but Senate Won't Follow

The House passed the first major climate change bill in nearly a decade, in a symbolic gesture for Democrats eager to show they are serious about addressing global warming.

### Energy

- Senate Democrats Grill Interior Nominee on Ethics Allegations
- Senate Democrats grilled Interior Department official Daniel Jorjani, President Donald Trump's nominee to become Interior's top lawyer, for actions they deemed unethical or heavily tilted in favor of big business.
- Climate Change Wreaking Havoc on the World's Hydropower Plants
- Climate change is hard to ignore when you're in the hydropower business, said Christian Rynning-Tonnesen, chief of Norway's largest power producer.

### Environment

- EPA Considers Severing Permit Program Changes from Power Plant Rule
- The EPA is considering separating major air permitting program changes from its rewrite of the Obama-era carbon dioxide limits for existing power plants, according to sources familiar with the rulemaking.
- Colorado House Sends Governor Climate Change Bill
- Colorado would set a 2050 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent under a bill on its way to Gov. Jared Polis (D).

### Today's Events

- All Day • Climate • Johns Hopkins University Advanced Academic Programs in cooperation with National Academy of Sciences hold symposium on multidisciplinary approaches to climate change.
- 10 a.m. • Nuclear • House science panel's energy subcommittee holds field hearing in Shippingport, Pa., on the domestic nuclear industry.
- 2:30 p.m. • Climate • Christine Lagarde, managing director of International Monetary Fund, and others discuss fiscal policy tools to achieve Paris Agreement commitments at Center for Global Development event.
- 5:30 p.m. • Colorado • Society of Environmental Journalists holds livestreamed roundtable on Colorado's energy and climate efforts in Ft. Collins, Colo. Speakers include Will Toor, executive director of the Colorado Energy Office, and Bloomberg Environment reporter Bobby Magill.

### Around the Web

- The EPA gave out more than \$9.3 million to replace 473 older diesel school buses in 43 states and territories.
- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) has appealed a recent federal court ruling that said former Gov. Rick Snyder (R) shouldn't be dismissed from civil litigation involving Flint's water crisis.
- Forty-one percent of Duke Energy shareholders backed a resolution on how the utility will address public health risks in light of the increased vulnerability of open coal-ash pits to climate change's impacts.

## BRAG Biobased Products Blog

### D.C. Circuit Partially Denies Petition For Review Of TSCA Inventory Rule

<http://blog.braginfo.org/entry/d.c.-circuit-partially-denies-petition-for-review-of-tsca-inventory-rule>

Lynn L. Bergeson

Friday, May 3, 2019

On April 26, 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (D.C. Circuit) issued its order on the petition for review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rule on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Inventory Notification (Active-Inactive) Requirements (82 Fed. Reg. 37520 (Aug. 11, 2017)), which denied the petition for review on all but one claim. Petitioner Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) challenged five distinct features of the Inventory final rule: (i) EPA's exclusion of substantiation questions regarding reverse engineering; (ii) the final rule's criteria for

“maintaining” a confidentiality claim; (iii) EPA’s choice not to incorporate certain regulatory requirements into the final rule; (iv) EPA’s failure to implement the Act’s “unique identifier” requirements in this rulemaking; and (v) the final rule’s exemption of exported chemicals from its notification requirements.

The D.C. Circuit’s order states that only the first claim succeeds past the standard of review required under both the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and TSCA, however; specifically, EPA acted arbitrarily and capriciously via its “omission of any inquiry into a chemical identity’s susceptibility to reverse engineering [which] effectively excised a statutorily required criterion from the substantiation process.” Even though EPA included several substantiation questions to address reverse engineering in the proposed rule, EPA did not include any “substantiation questions related to the requirement that a substance’s chemical identity not be susceptible to reverse engineering” and declined altogether to “‘secure answers’ substantiating a company’s ‘assertion’ that its chemical product cannot be reverse engineered.” The court states that this error was “fatal” and remands this issue back to EPA for EPA to “address its arbitrary elimination of substantiation questions regarding reverse engineering.”

## **TRANSPORATION**

### **Big Island Now**

#### **EPA Awards \$80K for Cleaner School Buses in Hawai’i**

#### **Big Island Now Staff**

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded more than \$9.3 million to replace 473 older diesel school buses with 2017 or newer buses. In Hawai’i, one school bus fleet will receive rebates totaling \$80,000 toward four cleaner buses.

Nationally, the funds are going to 145 school bus fleets in 43 states or territories, each of which will receive rebates through EPA’s Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding. The new buses will reduce pollutants that are linked to health problems such as asthma and lung damage.

Funding for the Hawai’i school bus fleet was awarded to Roberts Hawai’i School Bus Inc. in the amount of \$80,000 to replace four model year 2005 school buses with 2017 or newer vehicles. These new school buses will operate for the State of Hawai’i’s Department of Education and transport children throughout Hawai’i, Honolulu, Kaua’i and Maui Counties.

“Children’s health is a top priority for EPA, and these grants will help provide cleaner air and a healthier ride to and from school for America’s children,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “This DERA funding reflects our broader children’s health agenda and commitment to ensure all children can live, learn, and play in healthy and clean environments.”

“Children are particularly susceptible to air pollution because their lungs are still developing,” said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Mike Stoker. “This funding will improve air quality for thousands of Hawai’i students.”

Applicants replacing buses with engine model years of 2006 and older will receive rebates between \$15,000 and \$20,000, depending on the size of the bus. Regional, state or tribal agencies including school districts and municipalities, or private entities that operate school buses under contract with state, tribal or local agencies were eligible to apply.

Over the last seven years, EPA has awarded approximately \$39 million in rebates to replace almost 2,000 school buses. Bus replacements funded through the rebate program reduce emissions and exposure to particulate matter and nitrogen oxides for children at schools, bus stops, and on the buses themselves.

School buses travel over 4 billion miles each year, providing the safest transportation to and from school for more than 25 million American children every day. However, exhaust from diesel buses can harm health, especially in children, who have a faster breathing rate than adults and whose lungs are not yet fully developed.

EPA has implemented standards to make newer diesel engines more than 90% cleaner, but many older diesel school buses are still operating. These older diesel engines emit large amounts of pollutants, which are linked to instances of aggravated asthma, lung damage and other serious health problems.

The 2018 DERA school bus rebate recipients can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-rebates>.

**LocalDVM.com**

**EPA meets to discuss environmental issues with NEJAC in Bethesda, Maryland**

<https://www.localdvm.com/news/i-270/epa-meets-to-discuss-environmental-issues-with-nejac-in-bethesda-maryland/1975007098>

**Karen Aguilar**

**Thursday, May 2 ,2019**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. -

The EPA, or the Environmental Protection Agency, listened to the recommendations of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council in a meeting Thursday at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Maryland.

Representatives from NEJAC came from all over the country to express their environmental concerns. Doctor Wilson with the NEJAC said the exposure to multiple chemicals in the air was a top priority in the Maryland area. He noted the EPA needs to regulate these chemicals better. Wilson also recommends to stop the building of Rockwool, a manufacturing plant to be built in West Virginia because it would be near schools and it could have toxic effects on people, especially the children.

The chairman of NEJAC, Richard Moore, thought the meeting was successful. He added, "There is the work of this council, but also the work of the environmental justice movement, is extremely important because of the impacts where we live, where we play, where we pray, where we work and where we go to school."

Currently, the EPA has thirty days to review the recommendations of the NEJAC and come up with possible solutions to the concerns of US residents from here on out until 2020.

**New Jersey 101.5**

**NJ Gets Cut of \$9M from EPA for 28 Greener School Buses**

<https://nj1015.com/nj-gets-cut-of-9m-from-epa-for-28-greener-school-buses/>

**Erin Vogt**

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**

Some students in Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth counties soon will be riding on newer, more efficient school buses thanks to \$555,000 in federal rebate funding earmarked for New Jersey.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded more than \$9.3 million to replace older diesel school buses around the country, including four applicants in New Jersey.

The George Dapper bus company based in the Iselin section of Woodbridge, will get \$200,000 in rebate funding to replace 10 school buses.

Toms River Regional Schools will get \$200,000 in rebate funding to replace 10 school buses.

The Woodbridge and Toms River school districts also received rebate funds last year through the same program.

Wall Board of Education was selected to replace five school buses for a total rebate funding amount of \$100,000.

North Brunswick Board of Education was selected to replace three school buses for a total rebate funding amount of \$55,000.

The rebates were through EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding, which last year awarded a similar amount to replace 27 older school buses in New Jersey.

EPA has implemented standards to make newer diesel engines more than 90% cleaner, but many older diesel school buses still are operating. Older diesel engines release large amounts of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, which are linked to instances of aggravated asthma, lung damage and other serious health problems.

Bus replacements funded through the rebate program reduce emissions and exposure to particulate matter and nitrogen oxides for children at schools, bus stops, and on the buses themselves.

School buses provide transportation for more than 25 million American children every school day.

However, exhaust from diesel buses can harm health, especially in children, who have a faster breathing rate than adults and whose lungs are not yet fully developed, according to the EPA.

#### **The Beacon**

##### **EPA inspector general: OMB refusing to cooperate in glider truck probe**

<https://www.milfordbeacon.com/news/20190501/epa-inspector-general-omb-refusing-to-cooperate-in-glider-truck-probe>

#### **The Beacon Staff**

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**

Sens. Tom Carper, D-Delaware, and Tom Udall, D-New Mexico, released, on April 30, a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney outlining OMB's lack of cooperation in a probe examining a number of troubling irregularities in the crafting of a November 2017 proposal to repeal air emission standards for heavy-polluting "glider trucks."

The letter provides a timeline that details a consistent pattern over several months to ignore and sidestep basic requests from the IG's office.

"I do not accept today's response from OMB that, while 'very supportive of EPA OIG's work,' it declines to support our work due to the supposed deliberative character of the sought information," wrote EPA Acting IG Charles Sheehan. "...Such protracted delay constitutes a clear impediment to our audit. It undermines our ability to fully answer the congressional request that led to our audit. Accordingly, and as required by the IG Act in the event of information being requested by an inspector general and being unreasonably refused or not provided, 'the inspector general shall report the circumstances to the head of the establishment involved without delay.' Please consider this letter my report to you of such circumstances."

Carper and Udall released a joint statement reacting to this letter.

"We are deeply troubled to learn that, for several months, top leadership at the Office of Management and Budget has been evading the EPA Office of Inspector General's entirely reasonable investigatory requests," according to the statement. "Director Mulvaney's refusal to cooperate with the EPA OIG investigation we requested it undertake only leads to more questions about this administration's blatant disregard for transparency and the rule of law — if there is nothing to hide, why is this administration shielding EPA? We call on OMB to fully cooperate with this investigation so that both Congress and the American people have a clear and complete understanding of EPA's decision-making on a matter that will lead to more polluting trucks on the road."

A PDF of the letter from the EPA OIG can be found at [bit.ly/2V5DYRU](https://bit.ly/2V5DYRU).

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